

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

CHILCOTT

LUND

THOMPSON 

TAYLOR (Clerk & Recorder)

Date.....December 04, 2006

Members Present.....Commissioner Greg Chilcott,
Commissioner Betty Lund and Commissioner Alan Thompson

Minutes: Glenda Wiles

The Board met to review the following administrative matters:

Ron Hale was present to discuss the agricultural lease for approximately 100 acres of agricultural land south of the airport also known as the Leonardi Property. After a second review of the lease it was agreed to require lease payments quarterly with payments in December, March, June & September. Commissioner Thompson made a motion to sign the lease with Ron Hale and Brian Weber. Commissioner Lund seconded the motion and all voted "aye".

The Board met with Lt. Cathy Powell of the Ravalli County Detention Office in regard to the food services contract with CBM. The previous contract expired in March 2006, but Cathy indicated she has been busy with the move of her office. She presented the addendum, which extends the contract for another year and increases the price for food services as previously contracted on March 4, 2005. Commissioner Lund made a motion to approve of this addendum for CBM. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion and all voted "aye".

Commissioner Thompson made a motion to approve the September 2006 minutes with corrections. Commissioner Lund seconded the motion and all voted "aye".

Commissioner Lund made a motion to approve of the Travel and Holiday rates for 2007. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion and all voted "aye".

Commissioner Lund made a motion to continue the administrative matters due to a tight agenda until 2:30 p.m. this date. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion and all voted "aye".

The Board met with John Bartos and Tim Enberg of Marcus Daly Hospital in regard to the ambulance service. Tim stated the ambulance service was taken over mid-January of

last year by the hospital. He gave an update on the number and type of calls during that time, along with the amount of transfers they made. Total calls were 1,442 with 32% needing basic life support, 24% needing advance life support, 2 % needing basic life support transfers, 8% needing advanced life support and 33% were lift assist or cancelled out calls.

The average age of the fleet is 12 years and the average mileage is 179,616 miles with average repair costs at \$18,686. (Routine costs, such as maintenance, are not figured into this amount). Tim stated they have a transfer ambulance, which has 164,567 miles and they have spent \$4,000 on maintenance since January. The 9-1-1 ambulance has 148,000 miles and they have spent \$3,000 on maintenance since January.

The current truck distribution is located in Darby, Corvallis, Stevensville and several in Hamilton. There are nine ambulances which include the two County-owned ambulances that the hospital currently leases. John estimated the value of the County-owned ambulances to be around \$5,000. They usually utilize those ambulances for stand-by services at a basketball game, rodeo, etc., and they also pay the EMS workers for their service.

Tim stated the volunteers are being paid to carry the pagers and if called out, they are paid according to their certification for the actual emergency run. Each run will last approximately 3-4 hours. Most of the volunteers are earning approximately \$2,000 per - year for their services.

Tim stated they have a capital investment program for ambulances and they are seeking County government to assist them in the yearly replacement plan, whereby they would replace 4 ambulances over the next five years. Their plan is to either purchase one ambulance within the next 12 months for \$60,000-\$75,000 or to purchase two ambulances; one at \$60-75,000 and one at \$50,000.

Tim stated the fleet is aging and they need to be proactive in finding the funds to replace the ambulances over the next five years. John stated from the operational side, they spend over \$90,000 annually on insurance for the nine ambulances. From March through October they were not paid any money from Medicare; thus, they have been carrying the receivables. While the Hospital Board is committed to the ambulance services, they do need County assistance for the purchase of the ambulances. He stated they are looking forward to replacing four ambulances over the next five years. They do need to replace one ambulance right away, due to safety reasons. He asked how they can work as a team and see what types of options are available. Commissioner Chilcott asked how the County could assist today. John stated they need a new ambulance and the County could use one of their ambulances as a trade-in and purchase a new ambulance for \$75,000. This new purchase could be utilized on a County lease, also.

John stated EMS and ambulance services are important services to the residents of the County. This new purchase would be utilized as one of their main response vehicles. The organization of Marcus Daly is currently non-profit 502 C-3. Discussion included

the Montana Statute under Title 7, and the mill levy that can be utilized to purchase ambulances. Commissioner Thompson indicated he would be willing to review the ability of the County to assist in meeting the need for ambulances in the community. Also present were Bio Terrorism Coordinator Charmell Owens and Office of Emergency Services Coordinator Ron Nicholas. Charmell indicated there are some grants available for Fire Departments to purchase emergency vehicles, but she is unaware of any other grants the County could utilize. Commissioner Lund stated the County has the ability to utilize intercap loan monies for this type of purchase. Commissioner Chilcott stated he is concerned that Victor Fire Department could obtain an emergency vehicle for their area, and the residents would then be supporting another emergency vehicle for Sula or some other community.

Tim noted the hospital has given Victor \$10,000 towards the operation of that emergency vehicle. He also noted Victor obtained that vehicle prior to the hospital taking over the ambulance service. John stated the hospital made it very clear when they took the ambulance service back over that there is no money to be made running an ambulance service, as they usually cost money, but they were committed to giving this service to the community. In that regard, he stated they made it clear they would need assistance from the county in that endeavor. He stated the hospital has the ability to purchase one ambulance but they need the county to purchase the second ambulance.

Tim stated there are insurance issues in the use of the ambulances, as service providers must be employees of the hospital. He stated it becomes difficult to have all of the different ownerships, such as Victor Fire Department, because it makes it difficult if and when an incident occurs.

Commissioner Chilcott stated the County is facing unanticipated costs, due to approaching changes in local government, and they need to review this request in regard to utilizing money within the current budget or using a mill, which would require approval by the voters. John stated they will wait for the Commissioners to make a decision prior to purchasing any vehicles. Glenda, we need to discuss this with Finance during the Budget Process.

The Board met with Road Supervisor David Ohnstad and Office of Emergency Coordinator Ron Nicholas in regard to the Kootenai Creek Bridge Replacement. David stated the temporary bridge structure is in place. They have spent approximately \$27,000 and they anticipate another several thousand dollars, which will include the engineering. Options for replacement included the use of Forest Service monies, which will not be available because this is not a Forest Service highway. The other option is to use emergency monies through the Highway Administration, but that money is not readily available, due to the process. The last option is to utilize monies through the Governor's Office for Disaster and Emergency Services. The Commissioners have already approved an emergency declaration, which would allow them to levy 2 emergency mills.

Replacement costs would be \$160,000 for a modular bridge, plus the monies to remove the temporary bridge and return it to Missoula (which David anticipates to be around

\$25,000). He stated the original bridge abutments also must be removed, which could cost another \$20,000. David stated there are some design contingency requirements which he anticipates costing \$20-25,000 plus the actual engineering and \$35,000 already spent for the temporary bridge structure. This puts the replacement costs at approximately \$325,000. He stated the request to the Governor's Office must be presented within 30 days of the event, which places that request by this Thursday.

Ron stated the accessing of the highway transportation monies could be some time out. Ron stated the Commissioners passed an Emergency Declaration when he should have recommended they pass a Disaster Declaration, since there was loss of property. There was discussion of whether this is actually a disaster and how the 2 mills are levied. Commissioner Chilcott stated this certainly exceeds our local funding and capability.

David stated this bridge serves approximately fifteen residents and does not serve a Forest Service trailhead. The use of the temporary bridge can be utilized until December of 2008, but the verbal conversation from the Missoula engineer is that this bridge needs to be replaced sooner than that, because Missoula County needs the bridge back and the 'temporary fix' may cause more problems down the road.

The Board then held a conference call with Tim Thennis and Dan Leberg of State DES who is within the public recovery program. Tim stated the county has a 30 day window in order to request assistance from the state. The county would need to send a letter to the Governor explaining what has occurred. The letter also needs to give an estimate of the eligible damages. The eligible damage amounts would need to be reviewed and Tim would actually make an on site visit. Repair for road access is eligible, and the total cost of the bridge would not be eligible. David stated the access can not be repaired, it must be replaced. He stated it was under-designed to begin with so it must be replaced with a better structure. Tim stated those costs should be eligible as it provides access. Dan suggested they make an on site visit tomorrow and discuss what options are available to the Commissioners. It was agreed both Tim and Dan will arrive tomorrow morning.

Commissioner Lund made a motion to institute a Disaster Declaration based on Resolution No. 2003. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion (See Resolution No. 2015). It was also agreed to place a resolution on the agenda for Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. in order to enact the emergency 2 mills.

In other business the Board met to discuss the establishment of the Open Lands Board. Numerous members of the Right to Farm and Ranch Board (RTFR) were present along with citizens. Chairman of the RTFR Board Dan Huls presented a request of a 14-member Board which would include a representation of citizens, citizens who own or operate county qualified agricultural operations, RTFR members, Planning Board, Weed Board, Park Board, a member who has a back ground in biology, ecology, environmental sciences or similar field, a representative with a back ground in hydrology, water resource management or similar field, a ex-officio representative from the Extension Office and on ex-officio representative from the Bitterroot Land Trust.

George noted state law does not require a certain number of board members, but an odd number would work better for purposes of voting. Dan stated they would simply add one citizen member. George also stated the Commissioners need to hold a public hearing prior to advertising for the composition of the board. It was noted the Resolution that was filed with the Clerk & Recorder in order to bring this open lands bond to a public vote, specified an 11-member Board. George stated he will check that and if it states 11-members, the Commissioners will need to 'stick with that amount of board members'.

Dan stated the RTFR Board is working on a set of by-laws. He asked if the by-laws should be adopted prior to the board being appointment. George stated that was not necessary and the actual board members might want to have a hand in the adoption of the by-laws.

Commissioner Chilcott asked what year terms the RTFR Board was recommending. Dan indicated they would like to see 3-year staggered terms. Dan stated the by-laws are similar to Gallatin County, but the by-laws they have put together are more defined. He stated they reviewed other counties and they cut and paste the by-laws together. Commissioner Chilcott asked if they would want someone to take minutes and someone to be a point of contact. Dan stated the Planning Office has offered staff and the Planning Director has indicated her interest in this issue.

Commissioner Chilcott opened the meeting for public comment.

Grant Kier stated the manner in which this board make up is written is that each position is mandatory. He suggested if one of the seats can not be filled, that particular seat be opened to a member of the public.

Jim Shay stated they need more at large board members. He also agreed with Grant Kier's suggestion. He felt citizens should have the ability to become involved as they voted for the Open Bonds issue.

Bob Cron of the Park Board stated he would like to see one of the Board Members be a Park Board Member.

Less Rutledge of the Planning Board asked if agricultural operations should include the definition of logging. George stated the definition of agriculture under the statue includes logging.

Extension Agent Rob Johnson concurred with Grant Kier's suggestion.

Tonya Bloom stated the board representation should include the expertise from the other boards.

Commissioner Chilcott stated he would like to have an odd number board. Dan stated Gallatin and Missoula County have 15-member boards, and due to absences and the need for a quorum, they need to have the larger size board. Commissioner Chilcott stated one

of the reasons for this bond is to protect agriculture. The existing boards such as the Park Board, Weed Board etc. are knowledgeable and have a handle on the impacts to agriculture. He suggested the 15th board member be a citizen at large. Commissioner Lund agreed. She asked why the Extension Agent is an ex-officio member. Rob stated he can do more communication as an ex-officio member. Grant Kier, coordinator of the Bitterroot Land Trust, agreed that as an ex-officio member, the Bitterroot Land Trust can participate in a communicative manner.

It was agreed to hold a public hearing on December 21st at 11:00 in order to take public comment on the board composition. The Commissioners will then vote on a Resolution creating the Open Lands Board. Glenda will work with George on the wording for the public hearing notice.

The Board then reconvened for various administrative matters which included direction on various invoices and correspondence received.